

## Dhoni bigger than Tendulkar, SRK

According to a Forbes survey, India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni took home \$8 million in endorsements last year. It should come as little surprise then, that Dhoni has topped the chart for celebrity endorsements on TV during the first half of 2010. Not only has Dhoni left behind the likes of Shahrukh Khan and Sachin Tendulkar in his wake, he is also ahead of Kareena Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor, Kajol and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. Dhoni endorsed brands for 24 companies on TV between January and June this year, while Khan and Tendulkar were seen promoting the products of 16 and 15 firms.



PHOTO: AFP

THE SWEETEST ONE? Spanish superstar Rafael Nadal bites the US Open trophy after beating Serbian Novak Djokovic in the final at Flushing Meadows in New York on Monday. By winning this trophy the world's number one player completed a career Grand Slam title sweep.

## Pleasure in performance

### Shakib returns on September 18



SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan confessed that he had no qualms of being lonely in the West Midlands of England.

"I am enjoying my time so much that I don't feel homesick," said all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan while talking with the Daily Star Sport over phone yesterday, moments before he left home for the second day's play against Sussex at the New Road ground.

"Before this time, I had once enjoyed Eid abroad but that was with teammates. But this time it was something new for me. But honestly speaking I didn't feel bad though I thought that it would be hard for me to stay without my family for more than a month," said Shakib, who will return home on September 18 to join the training camp to prepare for the next month's one-day series against New Zealand.

It was altogether a different Eid celebration for the Bangladesh all-rounder, who already made his mark in County Cricket, as he had a game on Eid day at Lord's.

Shakib performed his Eid prayers at the Regents Park Mosque and then played the game against Middlesex where he took a career-best 7 for 32 to earn a stunning victory for Worcestershire. After the game he joined an Eid party at St. Peters College and then had dinner with a Bangladeshi family in London.

"Actually I enjoyed the day. So far I have had hardly any leisure time besides cricket. I am enjoying every bit of it here as everything is new to me.

"I am playing cricket in a totally different atmosphere. The reaction was as usual even after my seven-wicket haul," informed Shakib.

He also said that the supporters want him to continue his stint with Worcestershire in the next season also. "This is great feeling as the supporters want me to continue with my team for next season also," he said, adding, "I learnt many things by playing county cricket but it must reflected in my performance while playing for the national team. I have to prove that my county experiences matured me. Ultimately performance is the key for any player," said Shakib.

The immediate-past Bangladesh skipper believed that his performance in England's domestic game will open a window for other Bangladeshi players.

"Definitely it's open a window but once again performance is the key. I think Tamim (Iqbal) has every chance to play county cricket next year because he is now our No 1 performer," he

hoped.

"You can't replace him with any other player right at the moment. So, we will feel his absence during the five-match one-day series against New Zealand," opined Shakib.

The all-rounder has learned many things as a cricketer by playing county cricket but as a cook he became skilled at only two recipes. "I can make only omelette and fried eggs."



PHOTO: TAUSIF AHMAD

Shakib Al Hasan poses in front of the Cathedral during a rare off-day in Worcester recently.

## Rain plays foul on Day 2

SPORTS REPORTER

Shakib Al Hasan did not bowl a single over on the second day of Worcestershire's last Division Two game against Sussex after rain stopped play after lunch at the New Road ground yesterday.

Sussex reached 225 for seven from 81 overs, adding 34 to their overnight 191-7.

Luke Wells (62) and Andrew Hodd (51) struck half-centuries while for the hosts, Andrew Richardson took three wickets.

## Nadal comes full circle

AFP, New York



World number one Rafael Nadal completed a career Grand Slam title sweep on Monday by capturing his first US Open crown, defeating Serbian third seed Novak Djokovic 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

The 24-year-old Spanish left-hander overwhelmed Djokovic with uncanny shotmaking to win the 1.7 million-dollar top prize as well as his third consecutive Grand Slam crown and his ninth Grand Slam title overall.

Nadal became the seventh man to complete a career Grand Slam sweep, joining Roger Federer, Andre Agassi, Roy Emerson, Rod Laver, Don Budge and Fred Perry in having won Wimbledon and the US, French and Australian Open titles.

"That's more than what I dreamt," Nadal said. "Just to be in this final was amazing."

Showers pushed the final to Monday for the third year in a row and halted the match for one hour and 48 minutes, but rain only delayed Nadal's reign on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts despite losing his lone set of the fortnight.

"To have the trophy right here in my hands in a few seconds is going to be unbelievable," Nadal said at the on-court award ceremony. Seconds later, he was smiling and hoisting the trophy above his head.

A ninth Slam title moved Nadal alone into seventh on the all-time list, passing Agassi, Perry, Ken Rosewall and Ivan Lendl and moving only seven shy of Federer's all-time record, three crowns ahead of Federer's Slam-title pace.

"Right now he's the best player in the world and he absolutely deserves this title," Djokovic said.

After winning Wimbledon and the French Open earlier this year, Nadal joined Federer, Laver and Pete Sampras as the only men to win three Slams in a row in the Open Era that began in 1968.

Nadal, third-youngest on the Slam sweep list, would join Laver and Budge as the only men to hold all four Slam crowns at once by winning the 2011 Australian Open.

No Spanish man had won the US Open title since Manuel Orantes in 1975 and the only other Spanish US Open champion was Manuel Santana in 1965. Not since John McEnroe in 1984 had a left-hander had won the US Open men's title.

Nadal was broken only five times in the tournament, matching the mark for fewest broken serves by a US Open men's champion set by Andy Roddick in 2003.

Djokovic, whose lone Grand Slam title came at the 2008 Australian Open, had won his three

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## AFC U-19 QUALIFIERS Hosts take on India on Sept 20

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Bangladesh will take on Jordan in one of two opening day matches of the AFC U-19 Women's Football Championship qualifiers at the Birshreshtha Mostafa Kamal Stadium on September 20.

In the first match of Group B, India will take on Iran at 3:30pm while the hosts play from 7:00pm.

Bangladesh play their next match on September 22 against Iran and take on India in the last match on September 24.

Philippines will entertain Myanmar, Hong Kong and Uzbekistan in Group A.

After a single round robin, the top team from each group will advance to the second round.

The second round of qualifiers will be held from October 21 to 30 in Kuala Lumpur. This round features teams ranked 6-8 from the previous

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## Versatile Pont appointed Tigers bowling coach



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has appointed Ian Pont as the bowling coach for the national team.

The 49-year-old Englishman will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow, a day after the Tigers begin training for the upcoming five-match one-day series against New Zealand at home. His contract will run up to the end of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 and is reported to be worth around \$9,000 per month.

After months of speculation, BCB finally decided to hire an experienced bowling coach, as opposed to a big name ex-player. Lance Klusener, the former South Africa all-rounder, was the initial target for the position but he declined and the others -- Andy Caddick and Venkatesh Prasad -- in the wish list were also unavailable.

Pont's inclusion will complete the coaching staff, headed by Jamie Siddons, after the

appointment of the fielding coach Julian Fountain and a sports psychologist ahead of the big event.

Pont was the bowling coach for Essex for three years from 2005, as well as assistant head coach to the Netherlands, helping take the Dutch to the 2007 ICC World Cup in the West Indies. Before 2009, he also worked as ECB National Skill Sets Coach, specialist coach to the Worcestershire Academy, and invited coach of Nashua Dolphins provincial team in South Africa and the MRF Pace Academy in Chennai. He has also had stints with Warwickshire and Kent.

Currently, Pont is head coach to the International Cricket Camp in Potchefstroom, which takes place each December. He has also been a fast bowling coach to the professional squad and academy at Northamptonshire since 2008.

Pont predominantly played for Essex but also had stints in Nottinghamshire and Natal. He took 70 first-class wickets in 28 games between 1982 and 1988 including five-wicket hauls in his debut and final first-class games.

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IAN PONT

## Jacobs tames Bushrangers

AFP, Port Elizabeth



Warriors captain Davy Jacobs hit a thrilling half-century and took two stunning catches as the South African champions defeated the Victoria Bushrangers by 28 runs in a Champions League Twenty20 match at St George's Park on Monday night.

Jacobs thrashed 59 off 39 balls as the Warriors made 158 for six. The Bushrangers limped to 130 for nine in reply.

Veteran South African fast bowler Makhaya Ntini took two early wickets and fellow pacerman Rusty Theron claimed his second three-wicket haul of the tournament.

Jacobs held a leaping catch at mid-on to dismiss dangerous opening batsman Brad Hodge off Ntini and held a comparable catch at cover to break a threatening stand between Aaron Finch (25) and Victoria skipper David Hussey (29).

The Warriors became the first team to notch two wins in the tournament, putting them on top of Group A.

"We always knew it would be a difficult total to chase but we still had to bowl and field well," said Jacobs.

Opening batsman Jacobs gave his team a

blazing start as the Warriors hammered 62 runs without loss in the six Powerplay overs.

Seventeen runs, including three boundaries by Jacobs and four leg byes, were plundered off Dirk Nannes' first over and Jacobs thrashed three fours and a six as Shane Harwood conceded 19 runs in the fourth over.

But with the total on 81 Ashwell Prince drove the second ball of the tenth over straight to Andrew McDonald at mid-on. Prince ran but Jacobs hesitated and was run out by several metres.

Prince was out in the next over and the innings lost momentum. Medium- pacer McDonald bowled his four overs in one spell, taking two wickets and conceding only 22 runs.

South African international players Mark Boucher and Johan Botha put on 40 off 28 balls to enable the Warriors to reach a competitive total.

Disappointed Bushrangers captain Hussey said: "We've got to regroup pretty quickly and play some A grade cricket."

SCORES IN BRIEF

WARRIORS: 158-6 in 20 overs (Jacobs 59, Boucher 31, Botha 20; McDonald 2-22)  
VICTORIA: 130-9 in 20 overs (Finch 25, Hussey 29; Theron 3-22, Ntini 2-33).  
Result: Warriors won by 28 runs.



PHOTO: STAR

FIRST DAY IN OFFICE: Bangladesh's new football coach Robert Rubcic (L) talks to his charges during a practice session at the BKSP in Savar yesterday. Rubcic came to Dhaka on the 8th of this month on a one-year contract. Yesterday was Rubcic's first training session with the players who are preparing for the Asian Games.

### SPORTS POLL

Do you think the Tigers can win matches in the 5 ODIs against New Zealand?

Yes 70.4%

No 29.6%

TOTAL VOTES: 1008

### TODAY'S QUESTION

Can Shahriar Nafees cement a place in the national team?

Visit the sports page of www.thedailystar.net to cast vote

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### TEN Sports

UEFA Champions League Real Madrid v Ajax

Live from 12:00am (Thursday)

Bayern Munich v AS Roma

Delayed from 2:45am (Thursday)

### ZEE Sports

UEFA Champions League Chelsea v MSK Zilina

Live from 12:00am (Thursday)

### STAR Cricket

Champions League T20 Victoria Bushrangers v Central Stags

Live from 5:20pm

Chennai Super Kings v Wayamba Elevens

Live from 9:20pm